

### **REMARKS**

Applicants respectfully traverse and request reconsideration.

Applicants wish to thank the Examiner for the notice that claims 27-31 are allowed.

Claims 1-4, 6-26 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being obvious in view of U.S. Patent No. 6,510,236 (Crane et al.). As a preliminary matter, Applicants note that there was a typographical error in the rejection as it indicated that the claims were “anticipated” however the rejection appears to be solely based on an obviousness rejection. Applicants will respond accordingly.

Crane is directed to an authentication framework for managing authentication requests for multiple authentication devices wherein the authentication devices are for example token cards, biometric devices or scanners. A client unit passes to an application server a request for authentication. The request includes a user ID and device ID identifying a client and an authentication device, coupled to the client, from which authentication information comes. The application server determines which device authentication server the request is intended for and then forwards authentication data in the request to that server. If the server verifies that the authentication data is acceptable, a token is returned to the client.

In contrast, Applicants claim a different method and structure. For example, as to claim 1, the method requires sending, by a first unit, user identification data to an authentication unit and then using the user identification data sent by the first unit to determine which destination unit will receive an authentication code to be used to authenticate the user. The authentication code is then sent to the determined destination unit, the authentication code is then returned to the authentication unit and the user can then be authenticated. Crane fails to describe what is alleged in the office action. For example, the office action states that the “application server of Figure 4” corresponds to the claimed “first unit”. Taking, for argument sake, that the application server 12 in FIG. 4 corresponds to the claimed “first unit”, the claimed method is not met. For example, the claim also requires

using, user identification data sent by the first unit, to determine which destination unit will receive the authentication code to be used to authenticate the user. However, the office action cites that the same first unit, namely the application server, is the unit that both sends the authentication information and receives the sent authentication information. However, the claim requires a unit other than the first unit to perform the claimed operation since the first unit does not send the information to itself. As such, this limitation is not taught or suggested by the cited reference as the application server 12 does not use the user identification data that it sent. In fact, Applicants describe in one embodiment, that an authentication server receives the user identification data sent by the first unit to determine which destination unit will receive the authentication code. Such an operation is not taught or suggested by the cited references. Accordingly, the claim is in condition for allowance.

Claim 6 is allowable for similar reasons.

Claim 10 has been rejected for the same reasons as claim 1 and also based on the reasons given with respect to the back channel limitations discussed with respect to claim 15. Applicants respectfully reassert the relevant remarks made above with respect to claim 1 and also note that Crane also fails to render claim 15 obvious since the cited portion of Crane does not refer to using a primary wireless channel in combination with a wireless back channel as claimed. To the contrary, column 1, lines 25-39 and column 6, lines 1-14 are silent as to the use of any back channel and in fact, column 1, lines 25-39 actually refer to the primary communication channel. The portion cited in column 6, lines 1-14 only refer to different authentication device types and does not mention anything about a wireless back channel or use of primary channel in combination therewith. As such, Applicants respectfully submit that the claim is in condition for allowance.

As to claim 15, Applicants respectfully reassert the relevant remarks made above with respect to claim 10.

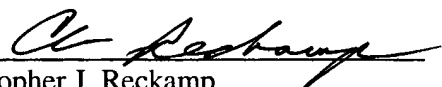
Claims 17 and 21 are allowable at least for the same reasons given above with respect to the other corresponding independent claims and as such, Applicants respectfully submit that these claims are also in condition for allowance.

Among other advantages, some of the claims provide different levels of authentication and may utilize an alternate channel, such as a back channel during a session to provide authentication information in addition to user ID and/or password information to provide multi-factor authentication. If desired, the authentication code may be sent to a third unit as owned by a user to improve the authentication process and so only the user owns the third device. In addition, an authentication code may be sent via a different channel than the channel used to send the password information. Other distinctions and advantages will be apparent depending upon the differing claim language.

Accordingly, Applicants respectfully request that a timely Notice of Allowance be issued in this case. The Examiner is invited to contact the below-listed attorney if the Examiner believes that a telephone conference will advance the prosecution of this application.

Respectfully submitted,

Date: June 13, 2005

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